

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claim 7 is allowed, and claim 4 contains allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Fig. 3A and paragraph [0037]. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the claims, asserting that claim 4 is a substantial duplicate of claim 7. The scope of claim 4 is changed in view of the amendments made to claim 1, from which claim 4 depends. Thus, the scope of claim 4 is different from that of claim 7. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,160,457 to Wu; and rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,787 to Yoshimura. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Wu discloses a crystal oscillator 40 in parallel with a circuit 20. See Fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 43-57. Wu discloses that the circuit 20 includes transmission gates 34 and 36, and transistors 24, 28 and 30. The Office Action asserts that transistors 24 and 30 correspond to an inverter, and that transistor 28 corresponds to a clamping circuit.

However, Wu discloses that a gate of transistor 28 ("clamping circuit") is connected to a control signal 03. See Figs. 2 and 3, and col. 3, lines 58-67. Wu does not disclose or suggest a gate of the clamping circuit that is directly connected to a transistor of a transmission gate. Thus, Wu does not disclose or suggest a third electrode of the clamping circuit being directly connected to a transistor of the transmission gate, as recited in claims 1 and 6.

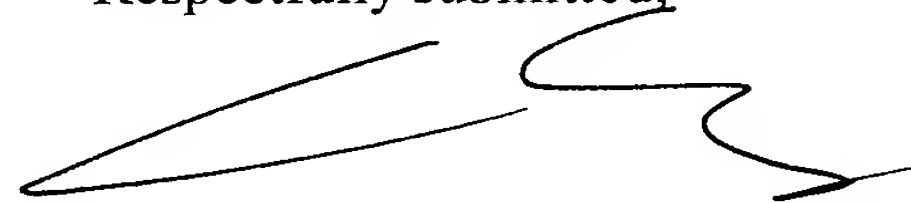
Yoshimura does not disclose or suggest a third electrode of the clamping circuit being directly connected to a transistor of the transmission gate. Therefore, Yoshimura does not supply the subject matter lacking in Wu.

For at least the above reasons, Wu and Yoshimura, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 6, and claims 2, 3 and 5, depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 102(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/axl

Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 16, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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